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Mufti Is Barred From Egypt; He Seeks Pakistan Asylum

Muslim Leader's Request Poses Karachi Problem

—Reply Is Awaited

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By MICHAEL JAMES
Special to The New York Times

KARACHI, Pakistan, Feb. 26

Hajj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, has been told by Cairo that he may be barred from Egypt. The religious leader, who is in Karachi, is seeking Pakistan for asylum.

Although the news of the Mufti's request became generally known among diplomats here today, the government refused daily to make any comment. The Foreign Office said its deliberations on the matter were still "top secret."

It is understood that Premier Jinnah's Government in Egypt acted after coming to know of the Mufti's request. The Mufti was attending conferences of Muslim religious leaders.

The Egyptian action was viewed here as a move to cut down on the effectiveness of the Muslim conference, known to be led by the Mufti on points of religious and political unity.

here that a world Muslim conference was to be held in March in Karachi rather than in Cairo, where previously it had been scheduled to take place. Observers here feel that this change also was effected.

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Mufti Seeks Asylum He Is Barred From Egypt

By The United Press

KARACHI, Pakistan, March 1.—The former Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husseini, today denied that he had been barred from Egypt and said there was "absolutely no truth nor any foundation" for the reports that he is seeking asylum in Pakistan.

Such reports were published in New York today, he said.

The Mufti said he came to Pakistan specifically to attend a conference of religious leaders from Muslim countries. His plans, he said, were indefinite as to the length of his stay.

The Mufti said he was "ultimately" returning to Egypt but might visit other Muslim countries en route. He denied emphatically that he planned to settle in Pakistan for any reason.

Spokesmen for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Egyptian Embassy in Karachi said that the Mufti had not asked asylum.

RETURN OF MUFTI BARRED BY EGYPT

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acted on orders of the Cairo Government.

It has been reported here that the late Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan of Pakistan once offered Pakistani citizenship to the Mufti, probably as a move to win support among the Arab countries. At that time, before the Arab world became inflamed, the Mufti turned down the offer.

Government Problem Difficult

The problem before Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan is a difficult one. The Mufti has a lot of influence among the more devout Muslims and rejecting his request for asylum would present a political difficulty. At the same time the government here has never actively supported the extreme steps taken by the Iranians and Egyptians toward foreign Muslims and has been happy to accept the recent political establishment in Egypt.

The Mufti, who has been blamed for an endless series of acts of violence throughout the Near East, but especially in Palestine, is a man of mystery. One day last month he appeared in Karachi. No one came to know just how he got here. Heavily guarded, the pith-chased and neatly bearded Mufti spent a few days in Karachi's largest hotel. He then disappeared. He was somewhere in Karachi but no one knew exactly where.

He appeared at a number of minor conferences held by Muslim religious leaders here during the month and even made a few public appearances. The conferences, ostensibly devoted to the adoption of phibitively resolutions supporting Islamic unity.

It is impossible to know exactly where the Mufti obtains his money here. Several embassies here guess that he suggests that wealthy Muslims make donations, although there are suggestions that the Mufti, whose external political affiliations are regarded as fluid, may benefit from financial aid from interested nations.

CAIRO, Feb. 26.—The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused today to comment on reports from Karachi that the Mufti of Jerusalem, who had been residing in Egypt, would not be permitted to return and had therefore asked to be permitted to stay in Pakistan.

A similar attitude was adopted by associates of the Mufti. They would neither verify nor deny the report.

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al-Husseini

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